

Little Real Help For an Alarming County Problem

DUPLICATION OF EFFORT, SEGREGATIONIST POLICIES IN INDIAN TREATMENT, LACK OF OFFICIAL LEADERSHIP - ALL COMBINE TO MAKE THE "ALCOHOL PROGRAM" EXPENSIVE AND, TO A LARGE EXTENT, INEFFECTIVE

SOME REVEALING FIGURES, AND GROWING CRITICISM, HAVE RECENTLY COME TO LIGHT TO CAUSE INCREASING concern over whether Inyo County's "alcoholism program" is in fact doing little more than pouring tax dollars into a problem that is - quite literally - staggering. Serious questions arise as to its effectiveness, especially among the county's Indians, and there is some evidence that racism, and funding favoritism, may lie at the root of the problem almost as much as free-flowing alcohol itself. A county report covers at least some of the statistics, and these are appalling, but at present it appears that there may be far more serious implications than the report contains.

Here's the "official" word from the Inyo County Alcoholism Program:

"Though representing only 7% of the county population, an estimated 60% of drunk arrests are Indian. It has been reported that approximately 40% of the Native American population have an alcoholism problem. An estimated 70% of Indian youths, ages 10 to 16, use alcohol regularly. Approximately 60% of Indian deaths are directly related to alcohol use."

And an attached letter from the Lone Pine (See ALCOHOL, Page 2)

MANZANAR RESEARCH

WHERE DID ALL THE GUAYULE GO?

AT MANZANAR, A JAPANESE SCIENTIST-INTERNEE MADE A REMARKABLE DISCOVERY THAT WAS BURIED BY GOVERNMENT AND BY PRIVATE OIL INTERESTS

AFTER THE SHOOTING HAD STOPPED AND HIROSHIMA lay flattened and the peace had been duly signed aboard the old USS Missouri, Manzanar's inmates were finally set free to go home. Curiously, after the camp was cleared of all but some of the old buildings, some federal men came around and began energetically to uproot some desert plants. They were careful to take every one, and were at pains to see that each plant (which looked a lot like sage) was carted carefully away. If they aroused any curiosity at all, which was unlikely (Everybody was too busily concerned with getting back to peacetime living to pay much at-

tention to a lot of desert shrubs), they volunteered no information. What the government people were taking with such care were bushes of *guayule* (Wy-oo-lay) that had been successfully transplanted to the Owens Valley - Manzanar, south of Independence - from Texas and New Mexico. And therein lies a tale, if not a national scandal....It had its beginnings with the incarceration at Manzanar of 50 or more Japanese who were leading scientists in several fields, including photosynthesis, or the action of sun on plants.

Among the distinguished wartime internees at Manzanar was Dr. Shimpe Nishimura, considered even then to be one of the world's top experts on photosynthesis. He had a friend, Hugh Anderson, a former schoolmate who happened then to be the business manager of a similar concentration camp at Poston, Arizona. Anderson, and the California Institute of Technology, wanted to put the collection of Japanese geniuses to work on something productive - like finding a source of rubber. (During the war, rubber was a major concern. Its source, Southeast Asia, had been captured, and Americans were driving without very much between the road and the rim of their wheels.)

A laboratory was established at Manzanar and Nishimura and his associates made studies and conducted experiments that resulted in some amazing discoveries - far too amazing, as it turned out, to other American scientists - and also to some petroleum companies who figured as how their own new rubber synthetics needed no cheap (and probably better) competition.

Nishimura had discovered that *guayule* could be made into a rubber cheaper to produce, (See GUAYULE, Page 7)

The INYO COUNTY NEWS-LETTER

A NEWS ALTERNATIVE - EASTERN SIERRA NEWS SERVICE

Compiled by John Heston and Benett Kessler

GENERAL CIRCULATION
Published weekly

Manzanar "pool"
Is Open Again!

Week of
May 22, 1978

NEWS BRIEFS

FELTON'S 'DRY' SUBDIVISION

ANGRY LOT OWNERS COMPLAINING THEY CAN'T MOVE IN; "PEACE AND QUIET" MAY SOON PREVAIL AT DIAZ; INVESTIGATION AT SCHAT'S

WHEN LANCASTER DEVELOPER KING FELTON subdivided a tract of land south of Bishop three years ago it appeared he'd have plenty of water, via a well, for his promotion. The well went dry and now, with a number of the lots sold, Felton faces a growing list of problems - including some sharp name calling - with Inyo officialdom.

Felton has come under fire from a number of lot purchasers eager to move ahead with their plans to build or to locate mobile homes on the land they bought. Their increasing anxiety over whether there is in fact an adequate water supply led some of them to complain to the board of supervisors. The county health department is not keen on allowing the issuance of building permits until the department can be assured that somewhere under the tract there exists enough water for the project. And some health officials claim they're getting no help from Felton.

After the original well went dry - a situation due possibly to two extremely dry years - Felton finally got it working again, but its water production "is not the same."

One of the owners in the 16-lot development is Louis Arnold, who wants to go ahead with his plan to move a mobile home into the area. Arnold's attorney, Charles Karpinski, told the supervisors that the delay is causing

(See NEWS BRIEFS, Page 9)

ALCOHOL, Continued.

Reservation has more to say:

"90% of 55 families on the Lone Pine Reservation have an alcohol problem in the family."

As to whether anything is being done about the situation, except from a handful of dedicated workers, there is this response from the Indian community: Not much.

One official of the Alcoholism Advisory Board was more specific when she was asked what the county program was accomplishing: "They aren't doing anything," replied Norma Spratt. Going further, she said that she is "disappointed in the Deepest Valley Council on Alcoholism direction."

"Deepest Valley" is a non-profit organization which at this time enjoys the exclusive contract awarded by Inyo to deal with Alcohol concerns. As for that program another problem arises, one stemming

from what appears to be an out-and-out violation of county rules for alcohol certification.

Spratt said that her most recent disappointment with the program was its handling of a recent "drinking driver" project that allows convicted drunk drivers the alternative of getting help instead of surrendering licenses or going to jail. Spratt said that a clearly segregationist policy exists, one that sends all the Indian participants to a treatment center at Bishop - "New Horizons" - and all the white alcohol abusers to the Deepest Valley program. Spratt said she was never able to "get any answers" when she made enquiries into the segregationist policy.

The alcoholism program certification is clear:

"Services and facilities shall be provided to clients without regard to race, color, creed..."

However, a New Horizons spokesman explained, at least in part, the seeming racial discrepancy in the matter of who goes where to get what kind of help: "All the participants, Indian and Anglo, go to New Horizons, but the Anglos can also go to Deepest Valley for the educational portion of the program." In other words, New Horizons often must handle the "hard cases" and counseling - dealing directly with the drunks - and Deepest Valley provides information. Counseling statistics indicate that alcoholics seldom respond to "information."

New Horizons was recently approved by the county supervisors as the "official" center for drunk-driving violators, in accordance with Senate Bill 38.

Ms. Spratt made no bones about her view that much of the "alcohol treatment program" - or any effective lack of same - is "politics." She claims that Deepest Valley and its direct-

or, Ginger Williams, as falling short of "what is needed." Spratt and others in the Indian community strongly favor New Horizons' direct, person-to-person program over Deepest Valley's more intellectual approach. She expresses wonder at the county's apparent favoritism toward Deepest Valley, in awarding its contract there without considering a bid for the contract from New Horizons.

County Supervisor Johnny Johnson was named to the county alcohol advisory board, but

could offer little information about the problem. Asked why the alcoholism service contract was not advertised for public bid, Johnson could not say. "I think it's a county function," he said. But in fact, Deepest Valley is a private contractor with Inyo County.

Another critic of the county's program is Terry Goodwin, Lone Pine tribal chairman. He told newsmen that "The county hasn't really ever done

much with their program...They hired some people and gave them titles.

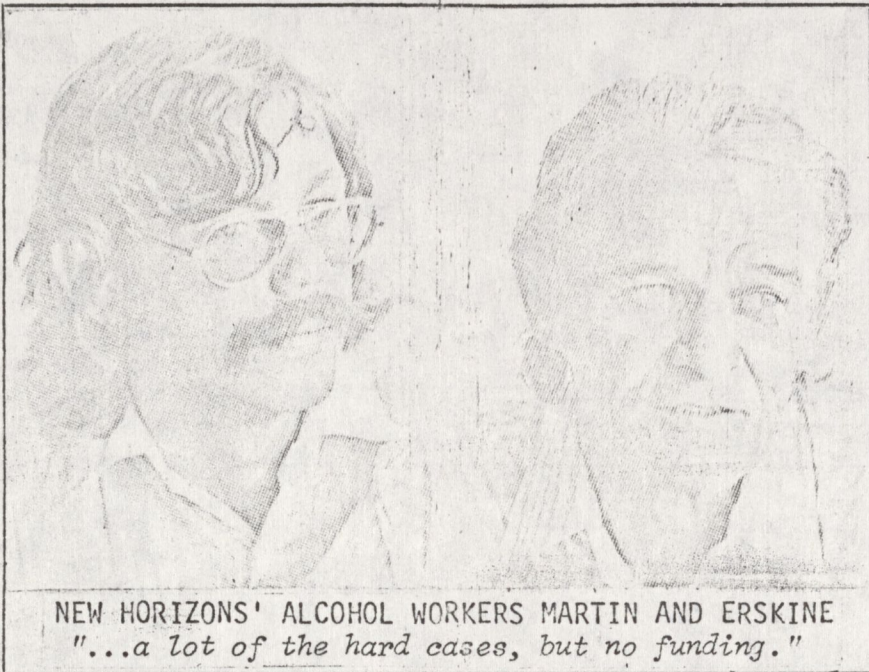
"But the alcohol and mental health program outreach just isn't there for us."

Meanwhile, Deepest Valley has been in conference with county officials about plans to open an alcohol recovery home. But Indian officials and others expressed some questions as to why such a proposal is considered when New Horizons already has such a facility and is at present (with no special expenditure required) already dealing with alcoholics and looking for funding. NH's directors, Chet Erskine and Greg Martin, have worked with considerable success with both alcoholics and narcotics addicts, but they claim that so far their organization receives little if any of the funding that goes through county outlets. "We get referrals from all over, quite a few from Deepest Valley," says Erskine.

Meanwhile, still a third alcohol-drug center has been applied for in the county - a center proposed by County Probation Officer John Lee. Lee is seeking a grant for such a center, but so far has heard nothing on that.

But Ginger Williams says the Deepest Valley program is going well. "Thirty-three people attribute their sobriety to our program since last July," she says. As for "counseling," Williams claims that the program includes her own work with alcoholics at her center on Bishop's Willow Street - and referrals to the mental health department, to various religious counsellors - and to New Horizons. To operate Deepest Valley, Williams receives a little over \$3,000 annually from the county government, and close to \$36,000 from the state. According to these figures, then, it costs the taxpayer more than \$1,000 a head to cure drunks in Inyo. Of

(See ALCOHOL, Page 8)



NEW HORIZONS' ALCOHOL WORKERS MARTIN AND ERSKINE
"...a lot of the hard cases, but no funding."

MONO LAKE'S SALTY AND TROUBLED waters are receding, but a Mono Lake Committee is not about to let them recede from public attention; a quarterly news-letter (*Everybody's* doing it these days!) published by the committee provides interested subscribers with up-to-date information on the lake's worsening condition. In the recent edition of the news-letter: an offer for a free natural history field trip to the lake - "Learn first-hand how water diversions are affecting this irreplaceable natural treasure..." The first of these trips is scheduled for June 10, limited to 30 people. Interested? Then send a stamped, self-addressed envelope to Mono Lake Field Trip, Box 29, Lee Vining, Cal. 93541. When the final history of the DWP is written, it may be that LA's greatest and most cynical transgression may prove to be the destruction of that lake and its nearby lands.



BENNETT KESSLER

SUNNY DAY IN MAY SCENE: County women seated at card tables set out on the sidewalks, selling paper poppies. And where did "Poppy Day" have its origins? Back in World War I which inspired the touching poem.... "In Flanders Field where poppies grow among the crosses row on row...." Donations for the red paper poppies go to the Disabled American Veterans. Remember them - the toasted heroes of yesteryear? When, indeed, will we ever learn?

I MET AN OLD VETERAN A FEW DAYS AGO. He's well into his seventies now. He'd been living in an old mine shack somewhere up in the Inyos - and a smart-aleck bureaucrat kicked him off. Can't live there anymore you old character. He'd come into our place looking for a place to live and to tell some of his troubles to Heston. Refused out of an admirable pride to lean on friends. He borrowed a mattress. He laid it out under a wind-break in a county campground 'til he could find a place to live.

I WASN'T AROUND ON "V-E DAY" OR "V-J DAY," but I'm told all those young men were given a lot of promises. They'd done a good job (at an appalling price), and we couldn't do enough for them - or so I'm told. Buddy, he's seventy now. Can you spare a mattress?

VERY PLEASANT PEOPLE DEPT: Radio KIBS' general manager John Young. Birthday greetings (May 4). John's 42...and old enough to know the trade, young enough to put a lot of vitality into Inyo's top AM outlet.

LOW-KEY CAMPAIGNS: Bob Thayer and John Hemler. No big ad campaigns. Thayer says in a letter: "I am cognizant that my approach could cause me to make a very poor showing at the polls; however, if enough voters share my feelings it may elect me." Hemler, the hard-driving newsman, will get his exposure in his news reports. And the incumbent, Herb London, is playing it all the same way. "Lefty" Irwin is raising the issues, however, in what may be described as a "moderate" promotion campaign. All the big guns

seem to be blasting away over in District 3 - Radio, newspaper, flyers, door-hangers, cards by the jillion - even T-shirts. Roger Glidden and Moe Jacobson are working hard for Wilma Muth's supervisorial seat...and she's fighting back - hard.

HORSE-LAUGH OF THE WEEK: The story comes back to us as how a local woman complained (to practically anybody who would listen) about what appeared to her as an exercise in (no doubt subversive) paramilitary training. "They are having bayonet practice!", cried she. And what in fact was the nervous lady seeing? It was only Our Man Heston in mask and gloves in a fencing match. Years ago, Heston was a member of a champion fencing team, and recently his doctor advised him to get some exercise. Among the provincials of course "fencing" is something you put around a garden. But a foil, or an epee, or a sabre is definitely not a "bayonet." *Touche!*

THERE IS NOTHING SO LUDICROUS AS IGNORANCE on parade marching *Bravely Onward* under the banners of righteous indignation.

WILL THE EQUAL RIGHTS AMENDMENT EVER BE RATIFIED? And does anyone really care outside of a few fems who find in ERA a way to get some attention? Frankly, if I want "equal rights" I don't need a constitutional amendment; I simply take them, assume them as it were as my just due without giving it a thought. The ladies now want a seven-year extension on the ratification and they're planning "the largest march in feminist history" - on Washington, July 9. They'll all be dressed in white, with "the tri-color sash of equality." Really, no taste at all! How *gauche!* But then of course such attire does give the impression of "equality" - at the lowest common denominator. Hard to say whether it'll be a howling mob - or merely a lowing herd. I wouldn't be caught *dead* dressed like that in Washington. *White* is for tennis.

A SAN DIEGO CRIMINAL LAWYER was buzzing blithely along on the highway south of poverty hills. A highway patrolman thought 70-plus was a little too speedy for the 55-mile zone. He wrote up a ticket. And would you believe the San Diego (Di - Ego?) lad demanded an instant audience with the district attorney, "Buck" Gibbons? Reporting it all later, "Buck" said the lawyer "offered to let me be the judge, but I said, sorry, I couldn't do that, that it was just a routine traffic ticket." No sympathy there, so the lawyer, feeling like a law fraternity reject, finally agreed to pay up. All that for a paltry 30 dollars.

INYO COUNTY HAS PROBABLY the most patient and courteous Highway Patrolmen anywhere. And how they manage to keep things under control out there on that Fishermen's Freeway, 395, I'll never know.

SOME OF THE SUPPORTERS OF PROPOSITION 13 are wishing that "B" movie actor, Ronnie Reagan, would keep his mouth shut. He recently called a press conference and endorsed Jarvis, and a lot of people are figuring that if Reagan

(See B.K.'s NOTES, Page 4)

B.K.'s NOTES, Continued

could be for it could there be anything good in it. But Reagan, for once surprising everyone by demonstrating evidence of human intelligence, had a point: If Jarvis fails to pass, the legislature might want to read into that the idea that people don't really care - and then go hog-wild on taxes.

AND THEN THERE ARE THOSE WHO THINK REAGAN may just want to ride on Jarvis' popularity. Even though he's in his seventies (Those Hollywood makeup people really know their business!), the former actor longs for the nation's top role, the presidency! More pathetic than comical.

WASHINGTON, HOME OF THE HAND-OUT, NOW WANTS to take over still more charities. There are a few D.C. types who've hit on the idea that tax deductible charity is somehow robbing the U.S. Treasury. They want it all to go to the government and let Congress say who gets what. Americans now donate about \$30 billion a year to charitable community organizations, but if the free-handed bureaucrats had their way they'd disburse it along *their* ideas of the deserving and the un-deserving. Between the United Way and the United States Government, I think I'd opt for UW every time....and place the bureaucrats in some charity-supported institution.

FLOWERS, GREENERY EVERYWHERE. The winter rains

brought the dusty old valley to life. See the bright row of color in front of the Mull House in Independence.

APPARENTLY IT WASN'T INTENDED THAT WAY, BUT the old Manzanar Swimm'n' Hole is open again. Last week, some DWP officials said there were no plans to let the reservoir refill, in spite of surplus run-off. The word has it that some Independence High School kids took matters into their own hands and opened up a small dam, diverting water into the "pool." They were splashing around happily all weekend. Channel 7 *Eyewitness News* allowed as how that made a good feature story, and ordered up film for the Sunday night news.

KIOQ'S BOB WELLMAN *INSISTS* that he be listed in the Very Pleasant People Dept. Okay, Bob, there it is. Official. And we couldn't list a nicer guy.

WELL, EVERYONE GRAB UP THE BIKINIS and let's head for Manzanar. It's not exactly the South of France, or even the Barbados Beach, but it's the best we have...And may the news in your day be good news...every day.

Sincerely,

BK



EAGLE

(Advertisement)

"Give me your tired, your poor / your huddled masses yearning to breathe free / the wretched refuse of your teeming shore / Send these, the homeless, the tempest-tossed, to me. / I lift my lamp beside the golden shore." - Emma Lazarus

As if right out of Nazi history, federal and local authorities are making an all-out effort to seek out, arrest and detain and export to their mother country the "undesirables" called wetbacks. Warning! If the pigment of your skin is of a brownish hue, hair black, and you are lacking a neutral California accent, you may be suspected of being an illegal alien. Do not walk the streets without proper identification. A California driver's license will do and if you are a legal Mexican your "green card" should suffice. Retain it at all times, for if you do not, you risk the unpleasant experience of being hastily removed from family, mate and friends, locked in a cage and summarily trucked south of the border.

What of these "wetbacks"? Some come to earn money, sending it to families remaining in a country where disease still travels the night wind demanding its yearly toll of death; where indoor plumbing exists in the big cities - and in fairy tales; education in personal hygiene is generations away, and the only hope of real survival in this world is the U.S.A - referred to in days gone by as "the land of golden opportunity."

What of humanity's migration to the Promised Land now? Shall we extend exclusive membership to the intellectual and academic elite only? For the answer to this one, Americans, look to YOUR ancestors. From whence did they come - and why?

Needed before and after Proposition 13 passes: Efficient spending, administration and representation!

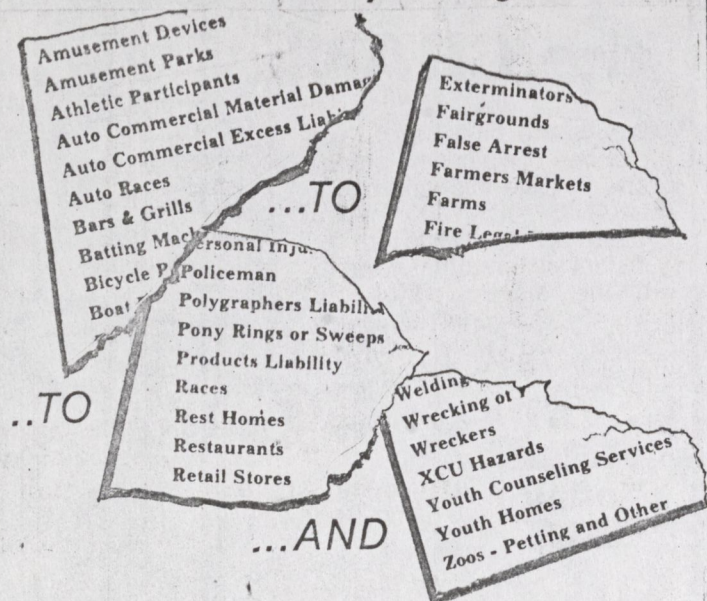
Community Service Award (posthumous): Lance Corporal Aston, 19 years old. Killed in action, 1969, somewhere west of DaNang, Vietnam.

- EAGLE

For more information about EAGLE, its beliefs, aims and goals, address enquiries to EAGLE, P.O. Box 1776, Bishop, California 93514.

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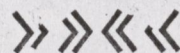
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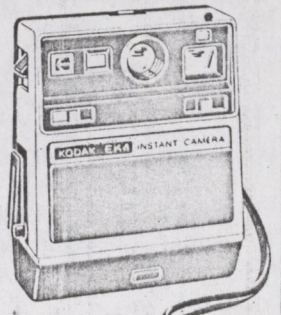
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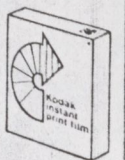
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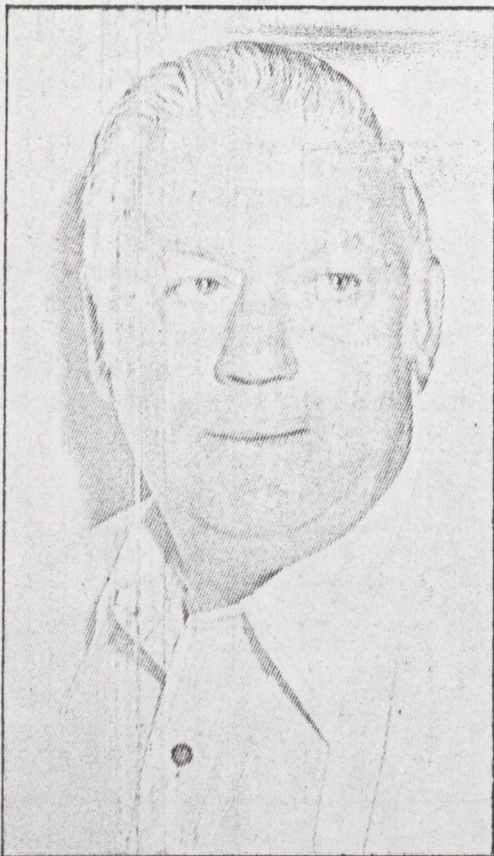
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Where there's

so much smoke.. THERE MUST BE AT
LEAST A LITTLE FIRE. AND "FIRE" MAY BE THE
RIGHT WORD. THE COUNTY'S PERSONNEL POLICY,
IT'S "HIRING" AND "FIRING" PROCEDURES, ARE
A CONSTANT CONTROVERSY. LET'S CLEAR UP ALL
THESE ONGOING ISSUES AND GET BACK TO SOUND
AND RESPONSIBLE, "EQUAL" GOVERNMENT.

H.B. "Lefty" IRWIN,
Candidate for
SUPERVISOR,
District #1

Vote June 6 for H.B. Irwin

GUAYULE, Continued.

more durable and more flexible than anything else around, including the "natural" Malaysian rubber and the petroleum synthetics. To this day, apparently, nothing has been found to exceed it in quality and durability. Another of its attractive qualities lay in the fact that it could be produced (in places like the Owens Valley, for instance) with less than three percent of the labor used in the production of other rubber. (How would you like a top-quality tire at perhaps half the price you pay now?)

Today, Anderson, a Stanford economist, is still trying to promote the discoveries made so many years ago in a small laboratory south of Independence. He was delighted when contacted by reporters. "I've been trying to bring it all out in the open, to get some media attention," he said. Here is Anderson's story:

"In Manzanar, they had brains and lots of time, a good combination for research. The 'prisoners' were actually working full-time for the government that was holding them. They got \$16 a month for a 48-hour week. Nothing about it made any sense, and I'm still teed-off about it.

"But at least the government decided that with fifty top-notch scientists at Manzanar, they could do something besides wash dishes and collect garbage.

"There were obstacles all the way. Most of the source of the problems was probably a lot of jealousy in the Department of Agriculture. They couldn't accept the fact that brill-

iant findings were being made by a lot of people they could see as only 'Japs.'

"The government refused to acknowledge the discoveries, and for thirty years no credit has ever been given to the Japanese-American scientists. After they were released from Manzanar, most of the researchers went into private industry - and the government destroyed every plant in the camp. Every one was removed."

And, significantly, what Anderson calls "the big oil companies" were making money on synthetic rubber. He sees those companies as the power behind the government thwarting the industrial progress of *guayule* as a rubber source. "Nishimura and his researchers never produced enough rubber to enter the market, but they did discover the means of developing the product that substantially increased rubber's durability and quality - and it can be produced with about three percent of the manpower used in other methods."

For a number of years, Anderson looked for a place to establish a *guayule* production plant. "But the oil companies quickly bought up the market with their synthetic product."

All that may be changing, and now *guayule* may quickly become a product not of a confused past but of a needy present. The Arabs and OPEC may have cornered the oil market - the source of today's synthetic rubber - but not the *guayule* market. "It's hard to say who will stick his neck out first," says Anderson, "but the manager of Goodyear has interviewed me with

(See GUAYULE, Page 8)

VOTE
JUNE 6

YES, LET'S DO "GET BACK TO BASICS'...."



...back to a fully-democratic, truly representative county government from our Board of Supervisors. No more special interests; because we can't afford it. I want - and I'm sure you do too - more efficient and responsive government that will quit wasting money on red tape and non-essentials. To get it, we'll need real leadership.

I think a lot of people feel that government is out of hand; that the leaders are playing favorites and no longer listening to the people.

I CAN HELP CHANGE THINGS, but on June 6 I'll need your vote.

ROGER GLIDDEN
FOR SUPERVISOR,
DISTRICT 3

EXPERIENCED, RESPONSIVE AND RESPONSIBLE

I want to help move the Inyo County government in new and positive directions, based on simple Common Sense.

GUAYULE, Continued

his director of research."

But Anderson holds no great hopes for massive support from the petroleum industry -- until necessity drives them to a "real" energy source. With petroleum reserves decreasing, the day may come when there will be little left for rubber goods. At present, the rubber that Americans use is about 70% synthetic, although recent years have seen dramatic increases in the amounts of rubber imported from the Malay states. Loss of American influence in Southeast Asia (Vietnam), may eventually cut many sources there. In 1975, the United States imported \$253 million worth of latex, and in one year more than doubled the import (\$513 million in 1976), which may indicate some panic on the part of the importers.

Says Anderson: "Guayule is like solar energy. It's the most efficient, inexpensive and sure way to go. But right now the petroleum companies don't see it as a profit, and they're blocking progress until they can gain control over the future market."

The obvious question arises as to whether the Owens Valley may in the future be a possible production site for guayule.

"Well," says Anderson. "It grew there before, and that's where it all started. I don't see why not."

And where is the former prisoner that developed the process? Nishimura remains, as always, in obscurity. "I write to him sometimes. He's living near Pasadena," said Anderson.

ALCOHOL, Continued

that money, New Horizons gets none for handling Deepest Valley's "referrals."

The county's alcoholism administrator, Tim Needham, says, however, that there is no duplication of services, that each facility has its own "strengths and weaknesses." As for racial considerations, Needham answers that "Deepest Valley is more for the non-Indians, with education programs and AA meetings, a program that involves other people to help maintain sobriety."

"New Horizons," continues Needham, "is for a different kind of person -- unconventional, untraditional."

A different "kind" of person? The county program certification regulations make no differentiation of persons as to "race, creed, color," etc. But Needham did not elaborate.

As to why NH did not get to bid on the county contract, Needham said that NH had its origins as a "substance abuse center" dealing with drugs and not exclusively alcohol, and that that makes a difference.

And as for the contract specifying that whites go to DV for education training, Needham said that DV will provide education for those sent by New Horizons. He added that any conflicts between the two agencies "can be resolved through their working together on this project."

All well and good, thinks Erskine, but meanwhile, New Horizons is hard put just to keep its doors open. Some funding would help.

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is useless unless
you USE it. VOTE on
JUNE 6!

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for "experience" is
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JEANNIE HARNES
for
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NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

"family problems" for Arnold. In Supervisor Herb London Karpinski found a sympathetic listener. With customary overstatement London referred to Felton as "...an outsider ripping off local people...A classical example of an opportunist." But London anger was not much help to Arnold and other lot purchasers; the health department remains reluctant to let anyone move into Felton's subdivision until the water issue is "settled."

MAYBE IT WAS BECAUSE THEY WERE CURIOUS, maybe because the League of Women Voters wanted a commitment, but the board of supervisors last week finally came around to taking a non-stand on the Jarvis proposition. An official of the league had appeared at their meeting a week before, requesting that the board "go on record" as opposing Jarvis. But the vote-conscious supervisors, recognizing in Proposition 13 what may be a highly popular proposal, decided to remain uncommitted. Besides, one of their members, Supervisor Dick Engel was absent then. Said Supervisor London, himself a candidate for re-election on June 6: "I do not believe that it is the position of the board without definite knowledge to advise the citizens of Inyo County." One supervisor, Independence's Johnny Johnson, jumped off the fence; he votes No on Proposition 13. Supervisor Wilma Muth said she feels the county can "survive" if Jarvis passes, although she warns that "some social services could go." She didn't say which social

services she'd be in favor of dropping. "But we'd remain intact. I don't think it would be that drastic." As for her own view on Jarvis: "I'm pushing for Proposition 8," which is the Jarvis alternative rushed onto the ballot by a legislature that got panicky over the possibility that Jarvis might pass. London saw an historical analogy in the Jarvis proposal and with a straight face said "We're back in the era of 'Fifty-four-forty or fight' and 'Don't Tread on Me,'" but he still remained silent on his views on Jarvis, and the county - officially - remains coyly non-committal.

AND THE LEAGUE'S INTEREST IN JARVIS was not the only input the ladies had last week for the supervisors. League members want the county to curtail building "that would change the character of an area," at least until the county can bring itself to develop a General Plan. London agreed with the women of the league and conceded that in Bishop there is some "willy-nilly development going on."

INYO'S PARKS AND RECREATION DEPARTMENT has for years taken a tolerant attitude toward the local rowdies that harass and disturb tourist visitors to a popular camp resort south of Lone Pine, Diaz Lake. But no more. Parks Director Jim Angelo rolled out an old ordinance calling for enforcement of a lot of peace and quiet after he began receiving an increasing number of complaints about "racing through the campgrounds" (More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 10)

RE-ELECT WILMA MUTH

..your full-time
SUPERVISOR

- * does listen to
her constituents
- * does work for
the taxpayer
- * does strive for
efficient and re-
sponsive local
government



VOTE JUNE 6

-

SUPERVISOR, DIST. 3

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

and loud parties, honking horns and screaming." It was seen as "not a new problem," but one nonetheless that may soon end. First on Angelo's list: strict enforcement of a weekend 10 pm-to-6 am off-limits restriction to all but those campers willing to pay the park fee. A park ranger will be there, says Angelo, to see that Diaz' visitors find the peace and quiet they're looking for. After June 1 violators of the ordinance will face arrest and the possibility of a stiff (\$25 minimum, \$250 maximum) fine.

FACING ANOTHER SLOW-UP IN THE RENOVATION OF Lone Pine's historic "Lone Pine Hotel," members of the Southern Inyo Artisans Guild will earn what they can through the exhibit and sale of some of their work: silver jewelry, pottery, macrame, wood works and hand-loomed garments and rugs. A percentage of receipts (10%) will go toward further face-lifting of the building they hope will soon become a permanent display center for their wares. The sale is set for Memorial Day weekend at Lone Pine Park.

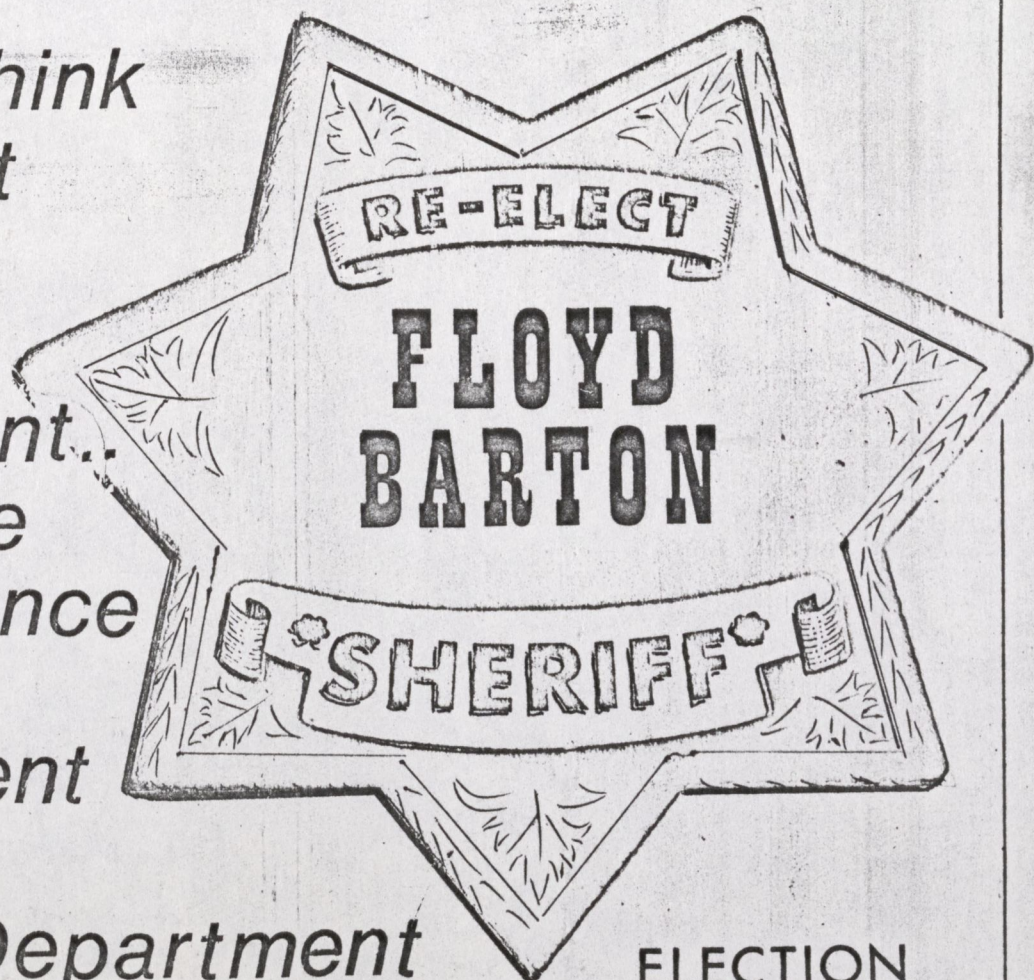
REPUBLICAN CONSERVATIVE REPRESENTATIVE William Ketchum complains about federal spending. Last week he passed on to his constituents a set of figures, computed in man-hour terms, that he claims represents the average work-contribution that the "average American" make toward support of the Washington bureaucracy: "...works two

hours and forty-five minutes out of every eight-hour day to support government spending." The congressman, who maintains a constant slow burn of anger beneath his more liberal congressional brethren, says that budget amendments recently introduced to cut spending have all failed. Argues Ketchum grimly: "It's a gloomy outlook at best...one which may require Americans to donate well over a third of their working hours to the government next year." Ketchum didn't say it, but many who agree with him feel that a national "Jarvis" movement might work well east of California.

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS' UNFETTERED CHAMPION of off-the-wall statements, Herb London, says he's "had a lot of experience with bags," and he thinks sandbags are sandbags even if they're made of plastic...And in case the warm weather brings a flood of snowpack water surging into the valley's lowlands, he and the other supervisors want enough of them around to curb the runoff. The question arose to demand a decision about whether to use plastic bagging or burlap, with County Administrator John K. Smith wondering aloud if the plastic variety might go slipping and sliding if dikes are needed. "They may not pack well together." The matter remained undecided, and it began to appear that if the weather turns warmer what this county needs is a good bagman.

INYO BAKERY BARON ERICK SCHAT ("Shepherd" and (More NEWS BRIEFS, Page 12)

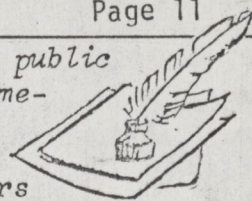
*Stop and think
about what
counts in
law
enforcement...
...then vote
for experience
and good
management
of YOUR
Sheriff's Department*



ELECTION
JUNE 6

NEWS-LETTER welcomes letters and comment relevant to public issues. The editors will publish those considered timely and with viewpoints concisely stated. Most likely

to be published are those of 200 words or less. Letters or statements should be addressed to PO Box 531, Independence 93526. The editors remind their readers that publication of a letter does not in any way imply that the editors agree with its view.



MEANINGFUL ISSUES AND A QUESTION OF TOP BILLING

Dear Editors,

I am disappointed that you ignored the happenings of substance that occurred on the tour of the Owens Valley for key members of the League of Women Voters of California when the Dept. of Water and Power invited 30 League members from across the state to Owens Valley, RE: "DWP As Swinger," May 8 issue.

Last Spring, league members in California chose to study the complicated water issues facing us. We titled our written material "California's Lifeline - Water".

We agreed hard choices face citizens and water managers. Today, this study is in progress. As a "go-see tour" for that study, key resource Leaguers were invited to learn more about the Owens Valley water dilemma.

More vital than the tantalizing tidbit about the lady in the bare-backed dress are the questions asked, the issues discussed, and the sites visited. I regret that one minor episode was distorted and received top billing over the more meaningful issues.

Water, rights, botany, effects of pumping on native vegetation, subsidence, aquifer composition, safe yield, land ownership and number of dusty days in the valley were discussed by DWP staff with hard questioning by Leaguers. I elaborated on all this in a telephone conversation with Kessler and am disturbed that none of it was printed.

DWP staff members on the three-day tour to explain their areas of expertise were Jim Wickser, Mel Blevins, Bruce Kebbler, Dave Babbs (a consultant), and Bob Burke from the power division.

Many of those on the tour expressed amazement that DWP would finance a trip to Owens Valley and Mono Lake to see the environmental devastation that is happening. They were impressed with the environmental concerns expressed by the local league and the lack of control over land use that valley residents experience.

To build on this positive start, I vote for more exposure of the issues and less sensationalism.

- Emilie Martin
Bishop

(Editors' note: Ms. Martin is not the first to "vote" for more exposure of issues and to comment on NEWS-LETTER's "go-see tour" report. In explanation, NEWS-LETTER would like to point out that its reporters got their information from no fewer than five individuals in the league. Four of these who reported on the tour offered the reporters considerably more on the "lady in the bare-back dress" than they did on the apparently more significant facts of the tour. Since it appeared that the lady and Mr. Blevins were uppermost in the minds of those who furnish-

ed NEWS-LETTER's information, it followed, reasonably enough, that the incident and not the tour study got top play in the story. The editors did not find it at all "tantalizing," although admit it might be deemed so from a provincial point of view. The common journalistic policy is that newspeople protect their sources, declining to reveal them even under the most stringent of circumstances; an unwritten "code" of which, as a media associate, Reader Martin is unquestionably aware. However, since she herself takes issue with NEWS-LETTER's coverage, we must remind her that much of the information in the item in question was provided by her.)

BISHOP SEWER PROJECT: A LONG FIGHT AND A HAPPY ENDING

To the Editors-

Here is a summary of a controversial project with a happy ending:

*In 1970 the board of supervisors decided to design and install a sewer collections system for County Service Area #1 (Bishop).

*About 1972, the sewer proposal was taken to the voters for a decision; they voted it down.

*In 1973 the Lahontan Water Quality Control Board ordered Inyo County to design and install a sewer system.

*In order to get more time and to attain better grants and some design changes in the proposed system, the Inyo County Property Owners Association secured the services of a lawyer and filed a lawsuit to restrain the project from being awarded. The county was ordered to file an environmental impact report. The EIR was done as ordered.

*Controversy arose over a question of using plastic or clay pipe. Clay won out. The project would have saved \$300,000, with no infiltration, with the use of plastic pipe. It was a county decision.

*It was a long, hard battle. The supervisors ordered the project to be properly advertised in the northern and the southern California papers. Bids were more than \$800,000 below the engineer's estimated project cost.

*Meanwhile, assessments dropped about 38% below original assessment due to the lower bids and grants.

*A group of concerned citizens decided they wished to form a community service district and relieve the county of the responsibility of managing and operating the system when completed. Eastern Sierra Community Service District was approved by the voters.

*Total cost of the project is about \$7.5 million. It is now complete and receiving sewage.

When you connect into the new system, it is hoped that you can appreciate all the trouble, work, and confusion that went into

(FORUM Continued, Page 12)

NEWS BRIEFS, Continued

"Squaw" Bread, among other popular shelf items) says that state health inspectors are being too hard on Inyo's "second largest private industry and employer of 142 people" - a firm that serves about a thousand market outlets in Los Angeles in addition to the area trade. Schat, anticipating problems with the health inspectors, last week called up the media to volunteer the information that the State Food and Drug Department is seeking a complaint against his "Dutch Bakeries" firm at Bishop. The inspectors filed a report last week with the district attorney's office, but the nature of the state concern was undisclosed. A check with the F&D office at Los Angeles revealed only that an inspector there (the on-sight investigator was not available for comment) "had seen some photos that looked like there may have been some rodents and insects in the plant." Not so, says the baker. "I spend about \$4000 a month with six sanitation people to keep things in order." The D.A.'s man on the case is Deputy Pat Canfield, who declined to say whether his office will follow through on the state report - but a decision on it will be made sometime this week. "It is unwise," said Canfield, "to go into detail until we have decided what to do. It would be a routine action in Los Angeles, but we are a much smaller county - and Schat's is the only major food manufacturer in the county." Meanwhile, Schat hinted that other than Inyo's rodents may be behind some of his problems: Schat's is a non-union bakery and its

increasing cut into bakery sales in Southern California may be raising the ire of union organizers there. Asked specifically if the unions are pressuring the health inspectors, the local baker said, "I just don't know." Meanwhile he invited, even urged, press representatives to visit his plant for a personal look into the sanitary conditions there.

NO MORE ULTIMATUMS from the county administration for TV cableman Ted Hagle. Officials, considering Hagle's franchise to operate, had demanded that he install expensive microwave equipment, but, convinced he can't afford it, backed off. Now the county leadership agrees to waive that part of his franchise until Hagle can find financing. Meanwhile there was still no definitive word about his proposed purchase of the cable system at Independence - and the county's TV advisory committee, which longs for more viewing channels, continues its attempts to work out a translator system for Independence-and-north picking up a signal south of Big Pine.

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FORUM, Continued

this project in order that all of us can use and enjoy the system without having to worry about septic tanks and leach fields filling up and backing up at inconvenient times (such as when we have company). We hope now that everyone is satisfied, even though the project was a long time in reaching completion.

- H.B. "Lefty" Irwin
Chrman., ESCSD

eastern sierra news service

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